



THE SCHOOLS *of*  
Guntersville

*Excellence in All We Do!*

**Community Guide for  
Reopening 2021-2022 School  
Year for In-Person Instruction**

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# Introduction

Guntersville City Schools is committed to providing high-quality instruction, emotional supports, and a safe in-person learning environment for all students. We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year and welcoming all of our students back to campus. We have created and will continue refining a plan that meets the needs of our students and staff as we return to a more traditional year of instruction and-more importantly- learning. Much was learned over the past year that will serve us well in education our students for the future. It is our hope to capitalize on this learning along with prior knowledge to exceed prior standards of learning. We thank you for your continued support, and together this school year will be a major success!



# Introduction: Letter from Dr. Barnett, Guntersville City Schools Superintendent

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I am extremely excited to kick off my first school year as Superintendent of Guntersville City Schools. While we are coming off what was easily defined as the most challenging year of schooling to date, I believe this year may end up as the most pivotal in shaping the future of education. The past year provides us with a time of reflection and preparation for what we have lost, what we have learned, and what it is that we desire the educational experience for our students in Guntersville to look and feel like. I, for one, am compelled to think that we--as educators-- will be better for the year we have completed, and I want to thank everyone in our community for the resilience, commitment, flexibility, and passion you all have shown for our students. You all demonstrated commitment in meeting the academic,

social, emotional and physical needs of our students.

As we focus our attention to the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, I want to encourage each of you to fully commit to supporting the educational efforts we are attempting to provide for our students. Our Board of Education, along with our faculty and staff, hope to provide our students with a more traditional schooling experience in terms of activities and on-campus opportunities, but with a renewed and refined sense of purpose and opportunity.

In closing, I am grateful to serve as your superintendent. I look forward to working along each of you to grow upon and continue to increase the great success within our schools and community!

Jason Barnett  
Guntersville City Schools  
Superintendent



# Calendar

## 2021- 2022 Academic Year



Board Approved 12/16/2019  
Revised 01/27/2020  
Amendment: Board Approved  
2/10/2021

### 2021-2022 School Calendar

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

December 2021						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Guntersville City Board of Education**  
4200 AL Highway 79 South  
256-582-3159 (Fax) 256-582-6188  
Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Aug. 03 - 06 Professional Development Days  
Aug. 09 - 10 Teacher Work Days  
Aug. 11 First Day of School for Students  
Sep. 06 Labor Day  
Oct. 1 Homecoming/Early Release  
Oct. 4-8 Fall Break - No School  
Nov. 11 Veterans Day  
Nov. 22 - 23 Flex Days/Professional Development  
Nov. 24-26 Thanksgiving Vacation  
Dec. 20-Jan. 03 Winter Break  
Jan. 03 Teacher Work Day  
Jan. 04 Students Return - 2nd Semester  
Jan. 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Feb. 21 Presidents' Day  
Mar. 21-25 Spring Break  
May 26 Last Day of School for Students  
May 27 Flex Day/Teacher Work Day  
May 30 Memorial Day

Teacher Days 187  
Student Days - 177  
Instructional Aides/LPN - 185 Days  
Off Days: 11/22, 11/23 Flex Day: 05/27

Early Dismissal Days: 12/17, 05/26  
Last Day of each Semester and Homecoming.

**Semester Reporting Periods**  
1st Nine Weeks: August 11th - October 8th  
2nd Nine Weeks: October 11th - December 17th  
3rd Nine Weeks: January 4th - March 11th  
4th Nine Weeks: March 14th - May 29th

**Report Card Dates**  
1st 9 Wks - October 14, 2021  
2nd 9 Wks - January 13, 2022  
3rd 9 Wks - March 17, 2022  
4th 9 Wks - May 26, 2022

January 2022						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
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27	28					

March 2022						
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27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022						
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May 2022						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2022						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- Holiday/School Closed
- Professional Development (no school for students)
- Teacher Work Day
- First & Last Day of School
- Early Release
- Flex Day/IPD



# In-Person Instruction

- Guntersville City Schools(GCS) and the Alabama Department of Education support the full participation of students in in-person traditional instruction throughout the 2021-2022 school year.
  - Traditional, in-person Instruction, will be led by each student's classroom teacher in a face-to-face setting in grades PreK-12 at each school, adhering to Guntersville City Schools Board Policy.
  - Since 2015, Alabama Act 2015-89 requires each local education agency to adopt a policy providing a virtual education option for eligible students in grades 9-12. GCS Students in grades 9-12 electing to learn virtually / remotely must adhere to the established Virtual School Program outlined in the Guntersville City Schools board policy.
- Approval or denial of a student for the Virtual School Program option will be made at the discretion of the administration of Guntersville High School. The Virtual School Program option is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges. Not completing virtual courses may result in failure of the course and/or limit enrollment in future courses. .
  - Furthermore, per Board policy, each potential candidate must meet the following minimum standards:
  - Must have a personal or school-issued device and must maintain reliable, consistent access to the Internet.



# In-Person Instruction, Continued

- Must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in all courses taken during the academic year.
  - Must maintain appropriate course progression as measured by the completion of weekly assignments, quizzes, and tests.
  - Must remain in good standing as a student of the Guntersville City School system.
- Must adhere to the Guntersville City Schools Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.
  - Students with Class III discipline infractions or an expulsion may be removed from the Guntersville City Schools Virtual School Program.



# Teaching and Learning

## Instruction

- Teachers will utilize Essential Standards, Unit Planning, and Learning Progression charts in the shared Bold School Google Drive. Teachers will utilize common formative assessments as applicable to inform instructional decisions and provide continuous and ongoing feedback to students regarding learning progression.
- Teachers will participate in weekly collaborative team meetings for planning, pacing, and assessment conversations.
- Teachers and instructional staff will provide immediate interventions as part of the Response to Intervention process to address learning gaps.



# Teaching and Learning, Continued

## Learning Resources

- The technology staff will ensure all students in grades 3-12 will be assigned a Chromebook package as an instructional support and will ensure that all key digital learning resources are accessible at school and from home where family-owned devices are available.
- Teachers, instructional staff, and technology staff will ensure all students, teachers, and instructional staff are supplied with appropriate login credentials to Schoology (if applicable) and Clever. Additionally, teachers and instructional staff will ensure students are provided with all print materials of curriculum materials as necessary.

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Teachers and instructional staff will be provided with professional learning through the District Leadership Team for SEL supports. The focus will be on student and staff mental health and wellness using trauma-informed models.
- There is an expectation for all staff to offer support to students and colleagues that displays concern, empathy, and respect. All staff should offer concern and curiosity about students' social-emotional needs and overall learning.



# Summative Learning Evaluations

## Grading

- Beginning with grade-level standards and learning targets, teachers will ensure students have a clear understanding of what should be learned.
- Grades will be a display of mastery in regard to learning targets and standards.
- The official grade record will be in PowerSchool.



# Summative Learning Evaluations, Continued

## Assessments

- **K-3:** Administer Early Reading and Math Assessment to screen all K-3 students: AlaKids (kindergarten only), Amplify mClass DIBELS 8th edition (K-3), STAR Early Literacy (as applicable), STAR Reading (as applicable), STAR Math (as applicable), and ACAP Summative or ACAP Alternate (as applicable)
- **4-8:** STAR Reading, STAR Math, and ACAP Summative or ACAP Alternate (as applicable)
- **9-12:** STAR Reading and STAR Math (as applicable) and ACT benchmark assessments



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations

## Transportation

- Parents will be advised to monitor flu and COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending children to schools. Students with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or show other symptoms should not be sent to school.
- Bus discipline and rules will be strictly enforced.
- A child that a bus driver suspects may have symptoms will be isolated to the greatest extent practical and released to a school nurse upon arrival at school for evaluation.



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## General Health Information

### Hand Washing / Sanitizer:

- Teachers and staff will model and expect enhanced hand-washing and sanitizer routines throughout the school day. Students will be trained and reminded of these routines.
- Soap and water along with hand sanitizer will be available.

### Water Bottle Filling Stations:

- Current guidance directs schools to not use water fountains. Students are highly encouraged to have bottled water or a pre-filled water bottle from home. Water bottles may also be refilled at “Water Bottle Filling Stations” as available.



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## Monitoring Student and Employee Health:

- **Parents:** Monitor flu and COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending children to schools.
- **Parents & Students:** Students who exhibit the following symptoms should not be sent to school:
  - with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
  - Cough, runny nose, or sinus congestion
  - Trouble breathing or persistent pain/pressure in the chest
  - Abdominal pain or stomach ache
  - Diarrhea or vomiting
- **Parents:** If aware of your child's exposure to a family member or others with Covid-19 symptoms, immediately notify the school nurse and keep the child at home until proper quarantine and testing can be completed.



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## Monitoring Student and Employee Health:

- **Employees:** If aware of personal symptoms or exposure, they should notify their supervisor.
- **School nurses:** If a student, staff or visitor exhibits Covid-19 symptoms, each school will have a separate health room or area to separate the individual. Current Covid-19 protocols provided by the ALSDE Nurse Administrator will be followed.



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## Facial Coverings

- The decision to wear a mask by a student or employee of Guntersville City Schools will be a personal decision beginning the 2021-2022 school year.
- Guntersville City Schools will support anyone who chooses to utilize a mask for personal protection..



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## Cleaning and Sanitation of Buildings

- Sanitation equipment, including additional state-of-the-art electrostatic sanitizers, will be provided.
- Teachers will be provided sanitizing supplies to clean as needed and may sanitize desks, door knobs, and other high touch areas according to school cleaning protocols between groups of students.
- Teachers will be provided with professional learning on how to fulfill these expectations.
- Each school will have specific plans to ensure that classrooms and common areas are kept as sanitary as possible.



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## Cleaning and Sanitation of Buildings

- Restrooms will be sanitized throughout the day.
- Cleaning schedules will be followed to ensure daily sanitation and cleanliness of facilities.
- Custodial staff will receive ongoing training in recommended cleaning guidelines issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the CDC.



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## Visitors in Buildings

- Visitors will comply with safety and security procedures on each school campus.
- School administrators must be consulted before planning an event or inviting a visitor to the campus.
- To minimize exposure, personal deliveries to students will be limited.



# Wellness, Facilities, and Operations, Continued

## Sharing Supplies

- We will emphasize that all personal items and belongings should be maintained personally and shared minimally as necessary.



# Exposures, Quarantines and Contact Tracing

- The definition of Exposure will be defined by the Center for Disease Control(CDC) and the The Alabama Department of Public Health(ADPH).
- The requirement for quarantine will be defined by the Center for Disease Control(CDC) and the The Alabama Department of Public Health(ADPH).
- According to the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Department of Public Health will be tasked with the responsibility of conducting contact tracing.



# Child Nutrition Program

- All normal operations of the CNP program will resume.
- It is strongly recommended for parents to make student meal account payments online through [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) Drop boxes will be available at GMS and GHS for students to drop lunch account deposits.
- If lunch money is sent to school with PK - 5th grade students, parents should send payment in a marked envelope with your child's name and teacher. ON-LINE PAYMENT is strongly recommended.
- **The Free/Reduced Meal Eligibility Application** will be only available **ONLINE**. Please apply for benefits at this link <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>.



# Meetings and Large Gatherings

## Meetings and Large Gatherings

### *Pep Rallies, Assemblies, Award Ceremonies:*

- Pep rallies, assemblies, and award ceremonies will resume under normal operating conditions.

### *Field Trips:*

- Local board policy will be followed.

### **Athletics**

- Athletic events will be scheduled and regulated according to guidance provided by the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA).



# Additional Information

This plan will be updated as necessary, so please check back often to review any updates and revisions.



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